

**Miles Community College
Board of Trustees
Minutes
March 22, 2021**

The Board of Trustees of Miles Community College met in regular session at 5:30 p.m., March 22, 2021, via Zoom/face to face. The following Trustees were present: Ryan Jones, Debbie Morford, Sue Morlock, Garret McFarland, Jeff Okerman, and Jamie Ogolin. The following Trustee was excused: Tara Andrews. Also present were President Ron Slinger, Candy Laney, Sarah Kloewer, Kylene Phipps, Erin Niedege, Nancy Aaberge, Richard DeShields, Jerry Olson, Jay Wiebers, Elizabeth Patten, James Simon, Garth Sleight, Anne Anderson, Tara Kiel, Shawna Juarez and Star Reporter Ashley Wise.

Chair Ryan Jones called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IMPORTANT DATES: President Slinger discussed the following: Introduced our new accounting specialist Tara Kiel. Highlighted the inaugural softball game this Saturday at Bender Field with festivities beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the game beginning at 1:00 p.m.

REPORTS:

- A. Enrollment Services:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Enrollment Management and Educational Support Services Erin Niedege reported on the following: HiSET graduation will be held on April 27 in the Centra. Nurses pinning will be held on May 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Centra. MCC Commencement will be held on May 8 as an in-person, but outdoor, event at Connors stadium. Discussed their plan to distribute the next CARES Act funding to students.
- B. Student Engagement:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Student Engagement & Auxiliary Services Richard DeShields reported on the following: All of the RAs have been hired for next year. Housing numbers are down a small amount from last year. A new text system is being implemented to communicate with students. Students will have the ability to opt out of this text system. During the Speakers Series on March 15, Professor Cindi Kernahan spoke about diversity and inclusivity, which was well attended by both students and employees.
- C. ASMCC:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President of ASMCC James Simon reported on the following: ASMCC received requests to fund bowling night for students, a new sound system, and funds to fill the food pantry. They have a number of activities planned for homecoming this week. ASMCC members will be at Bender Park to help with the inaugural softball game by passing out t-shirts and sunglasses. The election process for 2021/2022 ASMCC officers has begun.
- D. Administrative Services and HR:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Dean of Administrative Services and HR Kylene Phipps reported on the following: A number of searches are in progress right now. Two student staff positions for students living at the AAC are also open. Facilities and IT are busy with spring projects. Trustee Morlock said she was very happy to see Andrew Donnelly will be joining MCC as a faculty member.
- E. Academic Affairs:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, In Vice President of Academic Affairs Rita Kratky's absence, Associate Dean Garth Sleight reported on the following: Associate Dean Sleight had no updates to the written report.
- F. Athletic Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, Athletic Director Olson reported on the following: MCC men's basketball team finishes their regular season games this week. They are currently tied for third place with a 12 and 8 record. MCC women's basketball team is 20 and 0 in regular season play and won the MonDak region. They will get a bye for the quarterfinals. They will host the Region 13 semifinals on April 1 at 7:00 p.m. If they win the semifinal

game, they will host the championship game on April 5 at 7:00 p.m. That game will be for a chance to go to the Nationals. Saturday, the softball team will host their inaugural softball game. The softball team is currently 3 and 7 playing all teams in a division above them. Baseball will open their conference season at home on Saturday. They are currently 18 and 9 and ranked 18 in the nation. Dawson Parry is currently leading the nation in homeruns and RBI's. Jett Hasegawa is currently tied in the nation for wins by a pitcher. Rodeo had their third Winter Rodeo Series last weekend and will host their Bash this weekend. Saturday morning, we will also hold the reverse raffle at 10:00 a.m.

- G. President's Report:** In addition to the written report included in the Board packet, President Slinger reported on the following: President Slinger will meet with Senator Tester via Zoom on Tuesday, March 23. He has invited the Custer County Commissioners to attend. President Slinger said our Year Six Report has been successfully submitted to NWCCU. He thanked everyone for all their hard work on this accreditation project. President Slinger also discussed the next stimulus funding the college will be receiving. He gave the Trustees an update on HB67 and HB179. Both bills have passed out of their committees and have been sent to the senate floor. The existing community colleges have been grandfathered out of HB179; now this bill is just for new community colleges. The three community colleges have been working with Representative Llew Jones regarding HB67, the community college funding formula, and are happy with the outcome. President Slinger discussed baseball and women's basketball national rankings. He also said that MCC is working on articulation agreements with Montana Tech regarding their engineering programs.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Trustee Morlock moved to approve the November consent agenda. Trustee Ogolin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. COVID-19 Update:** Dean DeShields said the governor made an announcement regarding COVID-19 vaccines opening up to individuals 16 and older. Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be given through oneHealth. Dean DeShields has been sending notices to faculty and staff when vaccines are available through Holy Rosary Healthcare. We are encouraging social distancing and face covering but not requiring them at our outdoor events. Some colleges in our region are not allowing spectators at their rodeos; however, we are allowing spectators to attend the MCC rodeo, but will require face coverings for that event.
- B. Learning Center Presentation:** Director of Student Success and Retention Anne Anderson gave Trustees a presentation about the Adult Learning Center. The Learning Center is for both community members and college students. She discussed how they work with both these groups of individuals. The Learning Center has a disability support service to help students be successful in the classroom, they help students on grade suspension to be successful, they provide study skill resources, tutoring, and peer tutoring. They have programs to help students wanting to go onto another college after MCC to see what schools might be the best fit for them or what school might be the best career choice. They also have an MCIS program, which helps students figure out what they might want to do or what career they would be suited for. Their Adult Ed program is funded by a grant through Adult Basic Education. They can help anyone sixteen or older and who are officially withdrawn from high school. The HiSET program is like going through four years of high school in a short period of time. The HiSET, which used to be called the GED, is made up of five tests. The HiSET tests cost \$15.00 per test and we charge \$3.00 per test for proctoring. St Vincent de Paul has been very generous and have given us money for scholarships for students who cannot afford the fee. They have actually set-up two scholarships with the Learning Center, one to help pay for the HiSET testing costs and the other to pay for one MCC class for students who have gone through the program and have met the requirements asked of them. HiSET graduation will be held on April 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Centra. Anne also teaches classes for the Education Department. They are also working with Dickinson State University to offer our students a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education while still here on campus. Trustee Morlock asked if they will be offering this remotely. Anne said that the more students we have in the program we may be able to have an instructor from Dickinson on campus. Trustee Morlock

asked if students have to transfer their degree from North Dakota to Montana. Anne said the student will just have to pay a fee and sign a form requesting the transfer of their degree from North Dakota to Montana. Trustee Okerman asked how they get the word out to school counselors. Anne said that they have attended the superintendent monthly meeting, called schools, and talked to teachers. It was also in the Star and on social media.

- C. **Softball Presentation:** Coach Shawna Juarez thanked everyone for their support for their program. Invited the Trustees to the events on Friday and Saturday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A. **Chair Report:** No committee meeting was held due to the Trustee Retreat held on March 17 at the Town and Country Club
- B. **Old Business:**
- C. **New Business:**

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

- A. **Chair Report:** No committee meeting was held due to the Trustee Retreat held on March 17 at the Town and Country Club.
- B. **Old Business:**
- C. **New Business:**

QUALITY AND ADVOCACY:

- A. **Chair Report:** No committee meeting was held due to the Trustee Retreat held on March 17 at the Town and Country Club.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Discussed additions to the meat processing program.

Trustee McFarland moved to accept the Academic Affairs Consent agenda. Trustee Okerman seconded motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Jones adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Athletic Department Strategic Master Plan
- B. MCC Strategic Plan
- C. VA Property
- D. Student Conduct Process & BIT
- E. Presentation by Coaches

The next regular Board of Trustee meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in room 106 and/or Zoom.

Chair

Secretary